



Tanner Wants to be COOL!™
You Can be a Cool Kind Kid

Parent/Teacher Ideas and Suggestions

- **Parent reads**
- **Question parent asks**
- Parent instructions-not bold

- **Let's read a fun book about how to be COOL!**
- **What do you think COOL means?**
- **What kinds of things do you think a cool person does or says?**
- **What about an uncool person?**
- Introduce Tanner puppet: **This is *Totally Terrific Tanner*. He isn't sure what COOL means, either. Let's follow Tanner as he learns about what COOL is!**
- Read pages 1-6, focusing on what each illustration is showing as being COOL. Help kids understand that COOL here indicates things that are positive, nice, acceptable, etc.
- Stress that COOL is a word many people use.
- Read as far as Tanner's question at the top of page 7: "But what is COOL?"
- **What makes someone's car or boat COOL?**
- **What makes someone's game, book, or skateboard COOL?**
- **What makes how someone acts COOL or UNCOOL?**
- Read Tanner's question at the top of page 7 again, then the rest of page 7 and page 8; asking what the illustrations show and what they mean. Focus here on the fact that these are negative behaviors.
- **Why do you think some kids think these mean behaviors are COOL?**
- Play song, *Cool Kind Kid*, and then ask what they liked about the song.
- **What is the song saying about how to be cool?**
- **Next we'll see what Tanner finds out about *What is COOL?***

- As you read pages 9-14, ask kids to give examples of how they can say, be or do each thing.
- Use Tanner and Francie puppets to act out these behaviors.
- **How would you be nice to sibling's name?**
- **What are ways that you could help a friend?**
- Using the Tanner puppet, ask kids what they would say where Tanner is commenting.
- **What does it mean to you to share? How do you do that with friends? Siblings? Why?**
- Introduce Francie puppet on pages 9-11, where she comments on the fact that these ways to be cool are all things to do to be a friend and have many friends:
- **How can you do all these things to be a friend and have many friends?**
- **Do you want to be kind and polite like Tanner?**
- **Why should we be kind and polite?**
- Play song *That is Why* from link to download in the front of the book. [See page 16 for lyrics.]
- **What did you hear about why we should be kind and polite in this song?**
- Make copies, and help kids put together the ***Cool Kind Kid Pop-Up Card***.

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Parent/Teacher Ideas and Suggestions, cont. pg. 2

- **The song says it's good to be kind, polite and well-mannered, so let's continue to find out how you can be *Cool Kind Kids!***
- Do some or all of the suggestions on the ***Which Kids look Kind or Friendly?*** activity.
 - **If a friend is sad, what could you say to make them smile?**
For example: Let's go out and play. Come sit with us at lunch.
 - **If a friend is upset, what could you say to show that you care?**
 - **What compliment could you say to someone unfriendly so they want to be friendly?**
 - **What could you say to a kid who is being mean to change to being friendly?**
- Continue reading on page 15, with Tanner's question, "I want to be all of those things, but how?"
- Loudly read, "**MANNERS are the way to be COOL!**"
- Use Tanner puppet and get kids to shout "COOL!"
- **What do you know about manners?**
- **If manners are the way to be cool, why do we need to know them, besides wanting to be cool?**
- Replay song, *That is Why* [page 16].
- Ask kids what their responses would be to Tanner's comments in the corners.
- Read pages 17 through 21, with Francie sharing the comments with Tanner. Remind students that Francie is Tanner's friend and she is also learning about how to be COOL by having good manners.
- For each illustration on pages 17-21, ask kids to identify what it is showing, and are the kids demonstrating good or bad manners.
- **Tanner wants to learn manners so he can be a "Cool Kind Kid." Do you want to be a Cool Kind Kid?"**
- Replay song, *Cool Kind Kid* [page 23]. Encourage singing and dancing.
- **Tanner says, "The song says, 'Manners can be really COOL.'" So if we learn manners we'll be... COOL KIND KIDS!"**
- ***Fabulously Fun Friend Francie* [full color activity]** encourages kids to take the *Cool Kind Kid Challenge*.
- Ask your older kids to script and/or role-play how they would handle each of the 5 challenges; with you offering suggestions about how you want them to handle each.
- ***Cool Kind Kids Help a Friend* [black/white activity]**. Younger kids can color this picture. Ask them if they have seen this situation; dialogue with them to see what they have been experiencing. Share how you would want them to handle this scenario.
- For older kids ask them to identify the situation, and ask how they would respond and react; again with you offering suggestions about how you want them to handle this.
- Use the Tanner and Francie puppets to role-play ways that you want your kids to deal with situations like this. For example: get a group of friends to help, stand up for the one being bullied, encourage the bully to go away, get help from an adult.